The Government have undertaken the execution of a scheme for improvement of livestock in the State on a systematic basis. A five-year scheme under which a large number of bulls of *Dhani* and *Sindhi* breeds are purchased and distributed among well-to-do *zamindars* in selected centres every year has also been sanctioned. Horse and mule breeding activities also have been started on a small scale, but a more comprehensive scheme is under consideration. Special interest has been taken in sheep-breeding, which is so important for the development of the wool industry in the State. Livestock shows are held at different places in the State every year, with a view to encouraging livestock improvement. More veterinary dispensaries are being opened every year. A laboratory has been established recently at Srinagar, where Goat Tissue vaccine is prepared for the treatment of animals.

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The Agriculture Department is doing useful work to improve agricultural conditions in the State. The activities of the Department which were at first confined to Kashmir Province only have been gradually extended to Jammu Province also. Agricultural and Horticultural experimental work and the demonstration of improved methods of cultivation of crops and fruit plants are important features of the Department's work. It also distributes improved seeds, grafted fruit plants, implements and manures, gives technical advice to orchardists and agriculturists and fights the San Jose Scale and other pests. Agricultural training is imparted to sons of *zamindars* at Government Farms. The Department has introduced high yielding varieties of wheat and corns including sugarcorns from the U. S. A., Canada and Russia, and several foreign vegetables and fruits.

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The soils of Kashmir Valley are very fertile and irrigation is easy in areas removed from water. The improved seeds distributed by the Agriculture Department have found favour with the *zamindars*. Hand labour in Kashmir Province has been found to compete favourably with agricultural machinery. In Jammu Province, the use of new iron ploughs has been demonstrated and the *zamindars* have purchased such implements for their farms.

[134] [312]

657 To insure against food scarcity that had previously
623 threatened the village areas in Kashmir Province, the *panchayats* in Kashmir Province collected in S. 1999, 60,000 *kharwars* of *shali* and maize on *khushkbarid* basis for use in times of scarcity.

With a view to minimizing the migration of unskilled workers from Kashmir Valley to the plains in the winter for work and finding suitable productive work in the State itself for the men who migrate and as near their homes as possible, the Rural Development Department was entrusted with investigating the matter and preparing lists of men who migrate and the kinds of work suited to them. With the help of the *panchayats*, the Department was able to submit the details to the Government within a very short time of a month and a half. On the basis of this information, the Government appointed a committee for devising schemes calculated to provide labour to such labourers. As a result of the recommendations of the committee, Government sanctioned several schemes for providing employment to large numbers of people.

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656 Nor have the interests of the masses of the urban population which include manufacturers and traders, artisans and craftsmen, owners of house-boats and boatmen and skilled and unskilled labourers been lost
658 sight of. Primary education for boys has been made free and compulsory in the cities and important towns. As recommended by the Glancy Commission, the fees previously imposed on visitors to the Mughal Gardens near
651 Srinagar were abolished. Taxes on boat-men have in certain cases been reduced or remitted, and sites for mooring of house-boats have been provided either at
441 cheap rates or free of rent. An industrial exhibition
543 has been held at Srinagar annually since 1929. The exhibition attracts a large number of people including visitors, with the result that not only have there been greater sales, but there has been marked improvement in the variety and the finish of the goods produced. In order to provide assistance in the marketing of goods manufactured in the State, an Industrial Museum and Sales Emporium was opened at Srinagar towards the end of 1941. A similar institution has been started at Jammu also.

747 His Highness 'adopted' 5 Polish refugee children in British India for a period of one year. The War Aid Committee similarly 'adopted' 10 of these children for the same period.

His Highness has also contributed large sums of money from his Privy Purse for particular purposes connected with or arising out of the war.

722 His Highness visited the Middle East in October 1941 and inspected his own as well as other Indian troops there. He broadcast a message from there calling upon the people in this country to put forth further efforts in the war and inspiring them with hope in the ultimate triumph of justice.

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• 656 435 Long before the regulation of prices of foodstuffs was introduced in many parts of India, His Highness' Government had set up the Food Control Department for the control and distribution of *shali*, the chief staple of the Valley. The arrangement continues to the present day and *shali* is sold to consumers in Srinagar at fixed rates in Government controlled sale centres. Over a year ago, however, the soaring prices of other foodstuffs and the general food situation in the valley, as a whole, caused much anxiety, and His Highness' Government had to adopt several measures to relieve the situation. The measures included the fixation of the maximum sale prices of food-grains, restrictions on the movement of food-grains, restrictions on the export of potatoes, *til*, *sarson*, *alsi* and oil extracted therefrom and the opening of shops in Srinagar and certain towns and villages in the *mufassils*, where the poor classes of people could get grains at fixed rates. Food-grains were made available n deficit areas at low prices, at a considerable loss to the Government. Boards of Food Control, with representatives of different communities and interests, were constituted in both the provinces to deal with questions of policy relating to food-grains. Rationing of other important essentials of life, like fuel and sugar, was introduced. A Department of Supplies was set up.

657 Early in January 1943, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur placed at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to serve as the nucleus of a Fund for